ILO Report on unorganised sector in Northern India

1738. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an International Labour Organization report on unorganized sector in Northern India has highlighted the abysmal working conditions in this sector and the absence of social security for its workers;

(b) whether it is a fact that as per the report, the elements of job quality like job security, good working conditions, remuneration commensurate with the work etc. are missing in the informal sector; and

(c) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to improve the working conditions for workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) 'The Other India at Work' a book released by Indian Labour Organisation (ILO) is based on the findings of an ILO study undertaken in ten manufacturing and artisan clusters in the Northern India. The book, through 117 coloured photographs, broadly, highlights already known characteristics of the workers in the unorganized sector like poor working conditions, access to the credit, absence of employer-employee relationship, lack of social security, etc.

(c) The Government has initiated several measures for the welfare of the labourers in the unorganised sector. The Government have set up Welfare Funds to provide social security/welfare measures to certain categories of workers *i.e.* beedi workers, certain non-coal mine workers and cine workers. The welfare measures include health care, housing, educational assistance for children, drinking water supply, etc. In addition to this, the Government is implementing various poverty alleviation/ employment generations schemes. Further, Janshree Bima Yojana (JBY) providing for insurance cover is also available to the people living below or marginally above the poverty line including several occupational groups for the workers in the unorganised sector. The scholarship to the children of the beneficiaries of Janshree Bima Yojana studying in class 9th to 12th is also available. The Universal Health Insurance Scheme (UHIS) providing for health insurance of Rs. 30,000/- per year as hospitalization costs is being implemented for the people living below the poverty line. The Government has also constituted a National Commission for the Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector to examine the problems facing enterprises in the unorganised/informal sector. The terms of reference of the Commission, *inter-alia,* include review of the status of unorganised/

informal sector in India including the nature of enterprises, magnitude of employment; identifying constraints faced by small enterprises and review of the social security system available for labour in the informal sector, and make recommendations for expanding their coverage. Recently the Government has enacted National Rural Employment Guarantee Act which provides for 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The Government also propose to enact a comprehensive legislation to provide social security and welfare measures to the workers in the unorganized sector.

Early Warning System for Tsunami

1739. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up early warning stations/ systems in the seas surrounding the country for waring on Tsunami;

(b) if so, the number and places where such early warning systems/ stations are proposed to be set up and the time by which the work in this regard would be completed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, The Government has approved the project to set up an Early Warning System for Tsunami and Storm Surges in the Indian Ocean Region with the following components:

- strengthening of the existing seismological network to indicate, near real time occurrence of tsunamigenic earthquakes;
- installation of tsunami warning sensors close to the ocean bottom at appropriate locales in the Indian Ocean, with real time connectivity;
- Tide gauge and data buoys networking to validate arrival of tsunami waves at the coast;
- Modelling of the inundation scenarios for the entire coast and mapping of potential risk areas;
- collection of information, analysis and generating status advisories.